

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Mickey Rea

April Nature Center Hours:

9:30 am - 4:30 pm CDT Daily

www.stateparks.in.gov



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Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

Cookie Ferguson



Need a Park Map?

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, bring a parent.

Saturday, April 2

10am Early Birder Gets the Worm (or donut middle!). Grab your binoculars or borrow a set of ours and join Cookie for a walk in the woods to see how many "early birds" we can find. We'll talk about various birds of the Dunes and their dining preferences. When we're done we'll find a snack of our own liking. Meet at the Nature Center. CF

2pm Bluebirds of Happiness. Come to the Nature Center and learn about these colorful gems in the park and in your yard. What's new with our once endangered birds? Get a few ideas to attract and keep them happy in your yard. CF



Sunday, April 3

10am Another Dam Hike! Meet the naturalist for a 45-minute easy stroll as we take you to explore some recent beaver activity in the park. Check out what the beavers are up to this fine day! Meet at the Campground Gate entrance. BB

2pm Fire on the Prairie! Bring out your inner pyro-maniac in this exciting hour at the Nature Center. Learn how prescribed fire is used to help our habitats, and then help the naturalist start a fire if conditions are right! Kids under 12 **must** have a parent or responsible adult. Join us! BB

Saturday, April 9

8am 20th Annual Friends Native Plant Sale!

Join the Friends of Indiana Dunes as the 19th Annual Native Plant Sale takes place all morning through 1pm at the Dunes Visitor Center, just outside the park. Over 100 species of hard to find native plants will be on sale that day. Come early, before they're gone. Call the Nature Center at 219-926-1390 for more info.

10am Bird Banding Demonstrations. Explore the science of bird banding this morning at the Nature Center. We'll throw up the banding nets and look at everything we learn by investigating these birds up close and in the hand. BB

2pm High Tech Scavenger Hunt! Meet us outside the Nature Center for a scavenger hunt of sorts. Using GPS units, we'll explore the hobby of geocaching and even try to find some prizes of our own. Prizes for all the kids! Great family fun! BB

7:30pm Bogsucker Ballet!

Join us for a dance, of sorts! We'll meet at the main entrance parking lot for a 45-minute stealth hike in search of the bogsucker, aka. the woodcock, and his spring courtship dance. Dress for the weather and prepare for some off-trail hiking. BB



Sunday, April 10

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

2pm 100th Anniversary of State Parks! If you haven't seen this PBS special, come check it out! Explore 100 years of state park history, from the first state park to what's being done now in this 45-minute documentary in the Nature Center Auditorium.

Friday April 15

6pm Indiana Dunes Birding Festival Birds and Brews! The park and Indiana Audubon host these monthly gatherings of bird enthusiasts at The Craft House, in Chesterton. The monthly event is free and open to any age. Join us!



Saturday April 16

Visit the Dunes staff at the Earth Day festivities at The Porter Co. Expo Center.

10am Wood Ducks and Marigold Meander!

Meet at the Campground Gate for an hour discovery hike this spring day. We'll traverse parts of Trail 2 in search of flowering marsh marigolds and nesting wood ducks in the oaks above. Bring binoculars if you have some. We'll be out for an hour or a little more. BB

2pm Dunes Through Four Seasons. Enjoy the dunes from the comfort of the heated Nature Center auditorium. We'll explore the winter beauty and summer sights and sounds all in this 45 minute photographic tour. BB

Sunday April 17

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. CF

2pm Are They Here Yet Hike!? Come and meet some yearly friends who have sprung up to say hello! Join Cookie for a 45-minute early wildflower foray that begins at the Nature Center. CF

Saturday, April 23

10am What's in that Tree? Join the naturalist for a stroll in the woods looking for Indiana's second most populace duck. Yup-we'll scan the tree branches for this duck's favorite nesting cavities. How many will we find? Meet at the Nature Center. CF

2pm Go for the Gold! Are the marsh marigolds in bloom? They should be. We'll hike out to see for ourselves. Meet at the Nature Center as we look for signs of spring! CF

Sunday, April 24

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. CF

2pm Don't Poke the Bear! Come to the Nature Center and we'll talk about bears and their habitat. We'll also find out if the bear has been seen in our area yet this year and how to be on your "Best Bear Behavior". CF

Saturday April 30

10am Habitats of the Dunes. Meet the naturalist by the Beach Pavilion and we'll take a look at the varied eco-systems of our Dunes-all on one trail. We'll start at the beach and end in the marsh. As we go, we'll look for plants and animals found primarily in each area. CF

2pm Salamander Slither! Join the Naturalist for a puddle-to-puddle look for one of the elusive members of our animal community. We'll turn over rocks and logs seeking its hiding places. Wear your gettin' in the mud clothes, you may get a little dirty. CF



Sunday May 1

9am Spring Birding. Join us at the Campground Gate for a spring walk in search of the migrating warblers, tanagers, and other migrants. Bring a pair of binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. Join us! BB

2pm 100th Anniversary of State Parks! If you haven't seen this PBS special, come check it out! Explore 100 years of state park history, from the first state park to what's being done now in this 45-minute documentary in the Nature Center Auditorium.

Make Plans for the inaugural Indiana Dunes Birding Festival!

May 5-8, 2016

